

## LATEST NEWS OF THE WORLD BY TELEGRAPH AND CABLE. { CONTINUED ON PAGES 14, 15.

### WORK OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

The Chicago Platform Re-affirmed, W. Jennings Bryan Endorsed For the Presidency, and Constitutional Convention Question Made a Party Issue.

The Revised Constitution to Be Submitted to the People For Their Ratification or Rejection—Declaration in Favor of Retrenchment and Reform in the Administration of the State Government—Daniel, Martin, Tyler and Jones Delegates at Large to the National Convention—Jeffries and Mann Electors at Large—J. Taylor Ellyson Re-elected State Chairman, and Congressman Otey, National Committeeman—Great Speech of Senator John W. Daniel Last Night—He Explains His Position on Public Questions to Enthusiastic Admirers.

After yesterday's scenes and doings at the State Convention, there can be no further argument as to whether or not Norfolk is capable of successfully handling a large convention. The fact is now established beyond a doubt, the very fact that the Virginian-Pilot has been asserting for some time past. No one could enter the Armory Hall yesterday without noticing that the great convention was comfortably and capably housed. Everything combined to make the hall the most suitable place for the large gathering that could be found anywhere. In the first place, the vast size of the room prevented any crowding of delegates, and gave ample space for the erection of a roomy platform, capable of seating three hundred people. Then complete and perfect pre-

the Armory Hall instead of the Academy of Music. MODEL CONVENTION QUARTERS. Another, and by no means unimportant factor in the general convenience of the Armory Hall was its proximity to the Monticello Hotel, which was the headquarters par excellence of the delegates. Altogether, the hall was a large success as a home for a big convention. The most prominent delegates from all parts of the State agreed in pronouncing the accommodations unequalled in all respects. Much comment was made upon the pains taken by the Virginian-Pilot to offer every convenience in its power to the delegates and visiting press. The large and handsomely decorated booth to the left of the platform was furnished by the Virginian-Pilot with tables, pens, ink, and special convention letter heads, in fact with all kinds of writing material, even including tally sheets

music they dispensed lent to the inspiring influence of the occasion. MORNING SESSION.

Convention was called to order at 12:15 p. m., by State Chairman J. Taylor Ellyson, with a few appropriate remarks, who after a prayer by Rev. A. Coke Smith, D. D., of Epworth M. E. church, announced temporary organizations which had been selected by the State Committee, as follows: For Temporary Chairman: Senator H. D. Flood, of Appomattox. (Applause follows the mention of his name) For Temporary Secretary: Col. Wm. Henry Mann, of Petersburg. (More applause) For Temporary Sergeant-at-Arms: Wm. H. Jaques, of Norfolk. Secretary Mann appointed Mr. Geo. Lindsay, of Norfolk county, and Mr. G. F. Mattheis, of Richmond, assistant temporary secretaries.

MR. FLOOD'S ADDRESS. Mr. Flood upon assuming the chair addressed the Convention as follows: "It would be an affectation in me to disavow the gratification I feel in being called to preside temporarily over this convention. There is but one political party in Virginia which represents the true political sentiment, the virtue and intelligence of the State; and I see before me the chosen representatives of that party. I congratulate you that we meet to-day in the city of Norfolk, whose stalwart Democracy recovered political ascendancy under perhaps the most disheartening conditions existing in the entire State. "Never did the crisis of a Presidential campaign occur in the whole history of the country fraught with more portentous omens of evil and disaster than now confront the people. In the brief period of two years there is threatened the incipient if not the complete trans-

many should want that the few should waste. "Against the mad career of the political revolutionists and buccaneers of the present administration let the Democratic party sound the note of warning, and with a leader who looks at public questions from the standpoint of a patriot, a man whose heart is with the people and who cannot be lulled by the golden syrens of greed; a man capable of awing all hearts with the magnetism of his personality and the mystic power of his matchless genius with the dauntless tribune of the people, William Jennings Bryan, as our leader, let a triumphant Democracy demonstrate that the emissaries of Dives are no longer strong enough to dominate this country and hold its government against the people. "I congratulate this convention that to it is delegated the question whether the Democratic party of Virginia shall assume the lead in relieving the people of this Commonwealth from the existence, the deleterious influence of the Underwood Constitution—a constitution which was forced upon them by the cruel and merciless hand of military power, which was framed by a convention, a majority of whose members held credentials by virtue of the suffrages of the most ignorant and unqualified race which then inhabited the globe, and whose controlling spirits were the most profligate and corrupt class of white men of which our history makes



HON. WM. H. MANN,  
One of the Electors-at-Large.

record, the carpet-baggers of the North and the apostates of the South; a constitution which imposes restrictions onerous in their operations upon the Legislature in the proper exercise of the power of taxation, and in its execution in too expensive for the spirit of the times and the genius of the people; a constitution which changed in seven distinct provisions the Virginia Bill of Rights as framed by George Mason; a constitution which asperses the character of the men who, for the principle of local self-government, fought the most heroic battles of history; a constitution which embraced when originally adopted not one single element of popular consent, for a great part of the virtue and intelligence of the State was excluded from the participation in the election of the delegates by the most elaborate and minute scheme of legislative proscription which the mind of man could conceive of. "Virginia has seen her day of depression and now she beholds the dawn of a grand prosperity, and she should have a constitution germinating in the hearts of her own people, fashioned by their wisdom, framed by a convention of their own choosing and adopted at the polls by their free and unforced suffrage. It cannot be doubted that a people can submissively wear an ignominious yoke until at length they are no longer capable of any high and heroic endeavor. Let this never be said of Virginia. The opportunity is at hand to shake the ignominy of this alien constitution.

"With this relic of reconstruction removed, Virginia will step forth proud and erect to assume her wanted supremacy of thought and statesmanship in the affairs of the nation. The greatest builders, says Bacon, are the builders of State. Let the sons of Virginia with final love perform the task of adopting a Constitution for the State, which shall be the genuine offspring of their brain and patriotism of the people and of their social and political conditions and environments, and we shall behold her emerge from the gloom of night like a re-appearing orb."

The Rules of the House of Delegates were adopted as the rules of the Convention. Robert N. Harper of Loudoun offered a resolution instructing the Democratic State Committee to amend the party rules so that delegates to State and



HON. JOHN WHITEHEAD,  
Presidential Elector Second District.

District Conventions shall be chosen in primary elections, all of said primaries when held for these respective purposes to be held on the same day—the right to name the date in the different districts to be reserved by the executive committee for the respective districts. Referred to the Committee on Resolutions. Delegate Harry Smith, of Richmond,

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### INTER-OCEANIC CANAL TRIUMPHS.

House Adopted Hepburn Amended Bill By Overwhelming Majority.

WARM AND SPICY DEBATE.

The Most Stormy Intellectual Contest of the Present Session of Congress Ends In a Victory For the Friends of the Measure and Disastrous Defeat of Its Opponents—The Patron of the Bill and Mr. Cannon Engage in a Battle Royal—The Debate.

(By telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.)

Washington, May 2.—The House today, at the conclusion of the most stormy debate of the present session of Congress, passed the Nicaraguan Canal bill by the overwhelming vote of 225 to 35. All attempts to retain in the bill the language of the original bill for the fortification of the canal, and to still further strengthen the language on that line were balked, and the victory of Mr.

and in behalf of the United States, control of such portion of territory now belonging to Costa Rica and Nicaragua as may be desirable and necessary, on which to excavate, construct and protect a canal of such depth and capacity as will be sufficient for the movement of ships of the greatest tonnage and draft now in use, from a point near Greytown, on the Caribbean Sea via Lake Nicaragua, to Breto, on the Pacific coast; and such sum as may be necessary to secure such control is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.

"Section 2. That when the President has secured full control over the territory referred to he shall direct the Secretary of War to excavate and construct a canal and waterway from a point on the shore of the Caribbean Sea near Greytown, by way of Lake Nicaragua, to a point near Breto, on the Pacific ocean. Such canal shall be of sufficient capacity and depth as that it may be used by vessels of the largest tonnage and greatest depth now in use, and shall be supplied with all necessary locks and other appliances to meet the necessities of vessels passing from Greytown to Breto; and the Secretary of War shall also construct such safe and commodious harbors at the termini of said canal, and such provisions for defense as may be necessary for the safety and protection of said canal and harbors.

"Section 3. That the President shall cause such surveys as may be necessary for said canal and harbors, and in the construction of the same shall employ such persons as he deems necessary."

"Section 4. That in the excavation and construction of said canal the San

### HUNDREDS DIE IN A MINE.

Terrible Effects of a Powder Explosion in Utah Yesterday.

CATASTROPHE A MYSTERY.

Two Hundred and One Bodies Recovered—Between Three Hundred and Four Hundred Men Are Known to Have Been in the Mine—A Great Majority of Whom Were Killed—Twenty Young Boys Are Among the Dead—The Story of a Survivor.

(By Telegraph to Virginian-Pilot.) Salt Lake, Utah, May 2.—Between three hundred and four hundred lives were lost in the explosion in mine No. 4 of the Pleasant Valley Coal Company, at Scofield, Utah, Tuesday. Two hundred and one bodies have already been recovered. The work of rescue is still in progress, although there is no hope that any of the men who are unaccounted for have escaped death. The



HON. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN  
Endorsed for President by State Convention.

Hepburn and the committee was complete. A motion to recommit the bill, with instructions to report back another bill leaving the selection of the route to the President, was buried under an adverse majority of 52 to 171.

Mr. Cannon, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and Mr. Burton, of Ohio, chairman of the Silver and Harbors Committee, made a game fight to stave off action at this session, but their appeals were in vain, and the members rode rough shod over all their arguments and protests. Much excitement reigned throughout the day, and several times bitter words were used. The excitement reached its climax in a highly dramatic scene between Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Cannon, when the former used the word "lie" and "bar" as he denounced the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee for attempting "to dishonor" him. The House was in a riotous confusion during the quarrel. Members crowded the aisles, and the situation at one time was so threatening that Mr. Wheeler, of Kentucky, sought to pour oil on the waters by raising a point of order. But he was not upheld, and the two brave members carried their war to the very hilt. There was a show of peace at the close of the incident, but the feeling between the two men ran so high that the mutual retractions with which such incidents generally end were but the cloaks for keener and most cutting sarcasms.

THE BILL PASSED.

The bill, as it passed the House, is as follows: "Be it enacted, etc., that the President of the United States be, and is hereby authorized, to acquire from the States of Costa Rica and Nicaragua, for

Juan river and Lake Nicaragua, or such parts of each as may be made available, shall be used.

"Section 5. That in any negotiations with the States of Costa Rica or Nicaragua the President may have, the President is authorized to guarantee to said States the use of said canal and harbors upon such terms as may be agreed upon for all vessels owned by said States or by citizens thereof.

"Section 6. That the sum of \$10,000,000 is hereby appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated toward the project herein contemplated, and the Secretary of War is further hereby authorized to enter into a contract or contracts for materials and work that may be deemed necessary for the proper excavation, construction, completion and defense of said canal, to be paid for as appropriations may from time to time be hereafter made, not to exceed in the aggregate \$100,000,000."

AMENDMENTS.

At the opening general debate was closed, and the bill read for amendments under the five-minute rule.

Mr. Hepburn offered the committee amendments to substitute the word "protect" for "defend" in the first section.

It was adopted.

Mr. Parker, of New Jersey, offered an amendment to strike out that portion of the bill limiting the President's selection to the Nicaragua route. This amendment called for that protest from Mr. Hepburn, who declared that it was intended to revive interest in the Panama route, which had caused one of

scene of the disaster is just outside this place on the line of the Rio Grande Western railroad. The explosion, which occurred in the winter quarters of the mine, is attributed by some to blowing up of a number of kegs of blasting powder. The company has two mines, known as Nos. 1 and 4. The explosion occurred in No. 4. A special train was sent from Salt Lake bearing Superintendent Sharp, of the coal company; Superintendent Welby, of the railroad company, and some doctors.

TAKING OUT BODIES. As fast as bodies are reached they are taken to the boarding houses and other company buildings, where they are dressed and prepared for the coroner's inquest. These buildings are numerous, and in each are from ten to thirty-five bodies, which are laid in long rows. To

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### CLASSIFICATION OF NEWS.

BY DEPARTMENTS.

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HON. E. W. SAUNDERS,  
Permanent Chairman of the Convention.

parations had been made both for the convenience of delegates and visitors and for the beautifying of the hall.

One thing especially noteworthy was the arrangement of the rooms and booths for the district and committee meetings. Around the walls of the room were beautifully decorated booths for the districts, each one having its district number distinctly displayed outside. The conveniences of such an arrangement as this was very great and

giving the vote of each county in 1896 and the number of delegates allowed. Right in the booth too was the instrument of the Western Union Telegraph Co. Many visiting press representatives took advantage of these facilities for rapid work.

### SPACE FOR SPECTATORS.

The galleries around the hall gave ample room for spectators, and many witnessed the proceedings on the floor.



HON. PETER J. OTEY,  
Re-elected by Acclamation Member of National Democratic Committee.

formation of this Government from a Republic to an Empire. The boundary of our country did not extend, nor in the remotest expectations of its founders was it ever expected to extend beyond the confines of the American continent. This is an assured fact of history, but now we behold a deliberate departure from all our antecedent history and traditions in order to enter upon a scheme of foreign territorial aggrandizement in competition with the nations of the old world.

"Against these entanglements with foreign nations and these dreams of foreign conquests Washington solemnly admonished his countrymen in his farewell address; to them the tolling masses of our country object; against them Americans, born for freedom, protest. We are to send delegates to the National Democratic Convention. These delegates will be charged with the responsibility of presenting the protest of Virginia against the imperialistic and un-American departure from these established ideas which for more than a hundred years have constituted the cardinal features and greatest glory of Jeffersonian Democracy.

"They will also carry Virginia's protest against the aggression organized capital has made during the past four years upon the rights of labor. They will let the world know that in Virginia we regard the trust as an affair with which the Government can and should deal; that here we do not believe the



COL. WM. H. MANN,  
One of the Secretaries of the Convention.

drew much pleasing comment and notice to the management. The rooms assigned to the use of the various committees were the company rooms upstairs, and every one knows how comfortable and spacious they are. Thus almost all the district and committee meetings were right in the building, and much annoying delay and trouble was saved thereby. Many were the expressions of approval for the choice of



HON. JOSEPH BUTTEN,  
Secretary of the Convention.

From this gallery the scene was really beautiful as well as inspiring. The entire hall was tastefully decorated with flags and bunting of appropriate design and color. The speaker's platform, besides the bunting, was adorned with handsome palms, giving it a flower-like appearance from a little distance. Then the bright uniforms of the S. A. L. band situated directly over the platform added still more to the festive look of the whole, while the excellent